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Navigation, which was interrupted by the falls, recommences here. The river, which has been so long imprisoned by precipices, escaped from the lofty walls, spreads out to its former breadth, and widens in its progress to the Lake.

Fort George on the British, and Fort Niagara on the American side, are situate six miles below Queenstown, at the mouth of the river. There is no settlement at Fort Niagara. Near Fort George are the ruins of Newark. This town, once so flourishing, ornamented with fine houses, and publick buildings, gardens and orchards, is now a scene of desolation the most complete which the border presents. It is melancholy to think of the unnecessary destruction of this thriving town. There was hardly a man in the place. Women and children were its only inhabitants, and their houses were plundered and burnt in the month of December. Not a fence or a fruit tree are left standing, and the ground is overgrown with weeds. Mud hovels, log huts and unfinished buildings afford a temporary residence to the inhabitants, amidst the ruins of their former happy homes.

July, 1815.

FOR THE NORTH-AMERICAN JOURNAL.

The subject of a monument to Washington, was introduced in the Senate during the late session of the Legislature. The resolves which passed that body, authorized the governour to appoint three commissioners to carry the object into effect, and appropriated five thousand dollars for the purpose. It came down to the House very late in the session, and was referred to the next meeting of the Legislature. As the war is now over, publick attention may be again excited on this point, and the gratitude of the state after so long talking about it, may at length shew its sincerity in the execution of this honourable design. We shall offer some little development of some of the hints contained in this report.

This act of state policy, as well as justice and gratitude, having been deferred so long, it should not now be undertaken rashly and hastily. The plan should be fully considered, and if it be possible, a monument in honour of Washington, should also do honour to the good taste and

judgment of those who erect it. We have no objects to serve as models or warnings ; and therefore those who have never seen any piece of monumental architecture or sculpture, should not be too arbitrary in their decisions about the design of objects, of whose comparative effect, they can form only an imperfect idea from paintings or descriptions. When it is said, that the monument should do honour to the state and town, *if possible*, the phrase will not be thought extravagant, when it is considered, how few of the vast number of monuments in Europe can stand the test of criticism, and how few architectural productions even approach towards perfection. An eminent personage has said, that “ the Genius of Architecture had almost cast his malediction on the country ;” and the Genius of Sculpture has not been hitherto more propitious.

The report of the committee observes, that the plan of a monument may be divided into two parts, a statue or an architectural monument. It is most desirable that both these should be executed ; that the state in pursuance of a former vote should erect the statue ; and that the private fund now amounting to about nine thousand dollars, should be further increased, so as to elevate some grand architectural design. Our own artists should be offered the preference. A sufficient time should be allowed for them to consider the subject maturely, and send in their plans, and some premiums should be given to excite their attention to the object, and reward two or three of the most meritorious designs among the unsuccessful ones. The artist whose plan should be accepted, would receive his reward, in being employed to execute the work.

The monuments which have been erected within a few years in Westminster Abbey, St. Paul’s, and Guildhall, by a vote of Parliament, or at the expense of the city of London, have cost from three to ten thousand pounds sterling. Some of these monuments consist only of a single figure, with an inscription and *bassi relievi*, others contain besides the statue of the individual to whom it is erected, allegorical figures, and *bassi relievi*, so that three or four statues of the size of life are contained in a single monument, which may cover two hundred square feet and upwards. The marble used in England is brought from Italy, indeed the finest marble used by modern sculptors of every country, is the marble of Carrara. There are marble quarries worked

in many parts of the United States, but none has yet been found sufficiently pure and fine, for the higher purposes of sculpture.\* The cost of a statue would mainly depend on the pay of the artist. Canova received 6000 dollars from Joseph Buonaparte for his beautiful little statue of Hebe; the Banker Tolonia at Rome paid him 10,000 crowns for the statue of Hercules, independent of the cost of the marble and accompaniments. The Pope paid nearly the same sum for the statue of Perseus, to replace the Belvidere Apollo while that statue was at Paris. French and English artists of inferior merit to this celebrated Italian, receive as high, or perhaps higher prices for their productions.

In this country the cost of execution would be less. Genius in Europe is nobly rewarded, while ordinary labour pines on the minimum of subsistence. In this country it is the reverse; truth and justice lie between.† We have artists of our own, who would be capable of executing this statue. Three may be named, Allston, Morse, and Willard, who could furnish models, though they have never worked in marble; but this is a mechanical operation, and there are several marble cutters, who could assist in executing the work. Perhaps also, Mr. West, the venerable President of the English Academy, the first of American, as well as of European artists, might undertake this object, in which his love of his country, and his veneration of Washington would make him engage with enthusiasm. Mr. West does not work in marble, but he models in a species of composition, the use of which is increasing in England.

\* Porphyry, Jasper, Serpentine, Breccias, and many other stones, classed by the Italians under the general term of *pietri duri*, which hold an intermediate rank between the precious stones and marbles, are found in great variety and beauty in the United States. Many quarries of marble also are worked in different places; but hitherto they have been of rather coarse grain, well suited to the purposes of architecture, but not fine enough for the wants of sculpture. Since these pages were written, we have seen two specimens of white marble from a quarry recently discovered in Middlebury, Vermont, which are of the purest white, and the most delicate and homogeneous substance. It is said that blocks of it eight feet square can be easily obtained; if this be correct, the country possesses a marble as beautiful as that of Carrara, and the proprietors will find it to bear a high price in Europe.

† The assistant doorkeepers of the legislature, are paid three dollars a day; the governor and commander in chief, receives rather more than double this sum.

After the figures are prepared, they are baked in ovens, and are then indestructible, by either fire or water. Mr. West executed in this way two years since, an extensive allegorical monument in *alto rilievo*, to the memory of Lord Nelson, which was placed in Greenwich Hospital. A single statue on a plain pedestal could, without doubt, be erected for the sum appropriated by the resolve of the Senate. A further advantage attending a statue of this kind as mentioned in the report, would be derived in taking casts from it in Plaster, and giving one to each county in the state.

With regard to an equestrian statue, which is with many a favourite object, it is perhaps, at present almost impracticable to erect one. It is one of the highest and most difficult efforts of art, and would probably cost fifty thousand dollars. If, however, it should be resolved to have a statue of this kind, there are but few situations in Boston where it can be advantageously placed; one of these would be in front of the State-House, another in the Common, at a point nearly equidistant from the Mall, Park-street, and Beacon-street. Some persons have thought that the best situation would be the scite of the old State-House. But this opinion is taken up without sufficient reflection. The first great objection is, that you must commence your operation by the destruction of a building worth fifty thousand dollars. The same statue would therefore cost 50,000 dollars more there, than in any other place; there should be some great advantage to compensate for this; but if no such sacrifice were necessary, it would still be one of the worst spots that could be selected. An equestrian statue should be either placed in some extensive square, where the space that surrounds it, will give a degree of dignity suited to these pompous efforts of art, or should stand in front of some splendid palace or publick building. In the location now spoken of, it would be encompassed with ordinary brick buildings, and shops, would always be surrounded with carts, and could hardly ever be observed with advantage. The constant passage of people, and vehicles of all kinds in the most crowded and busy part of the town, would always distract the attention, and prevent the eye from considering it attentively. To view a statue to advantage, it must be seen without the intervention of passing objects, to disturb the tranquillity of the spec-

tator. This is proved by the equestrian statue of Charles at Charing Cross. It is by far the best statue among half a dozen of the kind in London, yet few persons are ever able to observe it attentively; it is surrounded by carts and intercepted by the eternal bustle of the streets, though the avenue in front, Whitehall, is perhaps the most magnificent street in London. Indeed the different effect of statues in the open air in Rome, or even Paris, and London, is very great; in the latter city they certainly produce but little pleasure. Whether this be owing to the chill and murky atmosphere, in which they are for so many months involved, may be uncertain; but from the sorry, despicable figure of Queen Anne in front of St. Pauls, and the noble, bronze, pedestrian statue of the late Duke of Bedford in Russel Square; with the various equestrian statues in different squares, six or seven in number, the lover of the Arts, and still less the common observer, derive but little satisfaction. Perhaps also by a very natural association, we should pity the poor statues exposed to the frosts and snows of our winters, but under our brilliant skies at other seasons of the year, they might be seen with as much delight, as in the fine climate of Greece.\*

If an architectural monument be resolved on, the principal forms are the pyramid, the obelisk, the triumphal arch and the column. The two former were peculiar to the Egyptians, and may be considered beyond the power of any modern nation. Of the pyramids, with the exception of the tomb of Caius Cestius near the walls of Rome, and which is wholly insignificant when compared with the Egyptian masses, there are no other monuments of this kind, but those imperishable ones, on the banks of the Nile. And here, if the reflection will be excused, is it not worthy of admiration; that the most ancient, the most durable monument of human labour, on the surface of the globe, is a tomb! The residences of royal magnificence, the fortresses of national safety, the sacred temples of the Deity, "the cloud-capt towers and gorgeous palaces," have vanished "like the baseless fabrick of a vision;" while these gigantick structures which must endure, "till the great globe itself shall be dissolved," were

\* We have seen a very handsome plan by Mr. Willard, for a new entrance in front of the State House, to be built of granite with iron railings, and the centre to be surmounted with the proposed equestrian statue of Washington.

only raised through the toil of ages, and the labours of millions, to conceal the poor dust of human vanity !

The only arguments in favour of pyramidal monuments, are their austere simplicity and extreme durability. The latter however, was owing to the almost incredible labour which was bestowed in their construction, and negatively to the climate. With the present prices of labour and subsistence, no nation in modern times, could have prepared the endless blocks of granite with the nice exactness of their fitting, that compose the pyramids of Egypt. And perhaps if they had stood in a country exposed to frost, the effects of ice, little by little in the lapse of ages, would have opened and ruined their surface. If a monument of this kind should be thought of on this occasion, it should be recollected, that, it can only be rendered respectable by its size. An advantageous situation should be selected for it. The hills at South Boston will not do, because they are two, and steep in ascent. The hill must be insulated as much as possible from others, and not difficult of access. The hill in Dorchester north of the Meeting House, the hill at Chelsea near the Ferry, or the eminence on which Fort Strong stands are the only suitable ones near the town, and to all of them the stone may be brought very near by water. The effect of a *small* pyramid may be seen (and so far as effect is concerned, deplored,) at any time, on an Island in the lower harbour.

The Obelisk is another of the inventions of the Egyptians, and which has never been attempted by any other people. There are no other quarries known in the world, besides those of Upper Egypt, which can produce such enormous blocks of granite. Five or six of these Obelisks are standing in Rome, one of them is one hundred and sixty feet high, *of a single piece*, and covered with Hieroglyphicks. The Egyptians cut these prodigious masses from their quarries, transported them to their cities, and elevated them. The Romans took them away, brought them down the Nile on rafts, coasted along the shores of the Mediterranean, ascended the Tiber, and erected them in Rome.—They were thrown down in the sacking of that city by the Barbarians ; and it was considered a wonderful effort in the Popes, merely to raise them up again. An object so slender as an obelisk would be of no great duration if formed of different pieces, indeed its magnificence mainly consists in its being of

one piece. This species of monument then, is completely out of the question.\*

There remain the Triumphal Arch and the Column. Both these kind of monuments have been adopted by different nations. There are in Rome three or four Triumphal Arches, which, though they are in ruins, are still sufficiently entire, to give a very perfect idea of their original condition. One of these is the Arch of Titus, erected for his conquest of Jerusalem, and which it is said the Jews to this day never go through, but always pass a passage by its side. The symbols of the Jewish religion, the golden candlesticks, the ark of the Covenant, &c. are still to be seen in reliefs upon it. Louis XIVth constructed two in Paris, and Napoleon undertook two, one only of which is completed. The gates of fortified towns have been sometimes adapted to this purpose, but, as the people of any unfortified town would, if they understood their own interests, sooner set fire to their houses and abandon it, than suffer it to be surrounded with walls and exposed to sieges, this form cannot be adopted here. It may be made use of as a monument only, but, to appear advantageously, it should be accompanied with regular and extensive edifices. Such Arches should always be seen at a distance from a long avenue, and are generally placed at the entrance of Cities. The upper part of Charlestown, Cambridge Port, and Washington street, are the principal entrances to the Capital, and offer the most advantageous scites. Of the three, Washington street presents the most advantages. If it were placed on the rising part of the street not far from the line of Roxbury, it would then have a wide avenue into the town of more than half a mile, and on the other side, Roxbury street may be hereafter straightened, so as to run to the entrance of the Dedham Turnpike, this

\* There are now lying near Alexandria two obelisks, vulgarly called the needles of Cleopatra. They were buried in the sand. When the English army were in Egypt, it was suggested that they should get up one of these obelisks, to be transported to England and placed in some square on the banks of the Thames, a durable monument of their success. This noble idea was entered into cheerfully, the soldiers volunteered their services, and after great labour it was raised and laid horizontally on rollers to be embarked in an old 64 that had been got ready for the purpose. A new and valuable naval commander intervened, (if we remember right, the polished Lord K.) and swore "that his Majesty's ships were not meant to carry stones"—and thus this classick plan of triumph, which could have injured no one, was rendered abortive.



would give nearly half a mile of approach in a straight line, on the other side. These Triumphal Arches are usually composed of three arches, one wide in the centre for carriages, and two smaller side ones for foot passengers. But the effect of an object of this kind is nearly destroyed, if it be not surrounded with regular and imposing buildings. Placed amid mean and straggling houses, it would be degraded. Should such an Arch be placed on Washington street, and two hospitals or a hospital and an arsenal be constructed on opposite sides near it, there would be a great effect of grandeur, arising from extensive symmetry produced from it.

Monumental columns have been erected by both ancient and modern nations. There are two in Rome, the Trajan and Antonine Columns, the latter is plain ; the former magnificently decorated through the whole length of its shaft, with *bassi relievi* winding in a spiral line. It is composed of white marble. Its effect is considerably impaired by the rise of the ground in that part of the City, its base was completely buried. It has been dug round so as to clear it to the ancient pavement, which is eighteen feet below the modern pavement ; so much is taken from its height, that its effect is considerably impaired ; the area in which it stands is also too small, the same may be said of the square of the Antonine pillar. The only column in Paris, was one erected by Napoleon in the Place Vendome, exactly after the model of the Trajan column. It was covered with the history of his victories executed in spiral bronze plates of *bassi relievi*, his statue was placed on the top. In London there is a Column, "pointing to the skies," of white free stone, erected in commemoration of the great fire, and which is the largest monument of the kind in the world. It is placed on the side of a narrow street perpetually thronged, surrounded with dingy brick houses, and in so small an area that its effect is almost destroyed. It is two hundred and two feet in height.

In placing a column, two situations present themselves, the one designated by the Committee, and Fort Hill. The latter, however, is surrounded with houses which would hide the lower part of it, the space is too small for an object of great magnitude, and the labour of carrying the materials to the top of the hill, would be a serious obstacle. Before recurring to the other location, a few remarks will point out another spot of great beauty, which is now, however, lost

for any purpose of this kind. In Rome, the finest effects are produced by the direction of some of the streets, and the judicious placing of objects; thus at the gate del Popolo, which is the entrance from Florence, there is a triangular place, and in the centre an obelisk; from this square three streets proceed diverging into the city; the consequence is, that from the other extremity of these streets, widely distant from each other, this obelisk and gate are seen to great advantage, and the objects appear multiplied. On the Monte Cavallo, the principal residence of the Popes, two superb streets cross each other at right angles, and in looking down each of them, there is some grand object to terminate the view, and from the other end of these streets they have for a point of sight, the fine horses which give the name to this hill. Keeping out of mind the grandeur of the associations on that spot, and the magnificence of the edifices; there is a spot in Boston which in natural advantage far exceeds it, and although greatly mutilated, and degraded by irregularities, it still presents a scite of singular and almost unequalled beauty. Let the observer place himself in the centre, where Belknap and Olive streets cross each other. Looking east, the avenue is perhaps irretrievably spoilt, but if the north wall of the State House yard was made straight, and the fence in the street beyond it taken away, the eye after passing over the centre of the town, would see the harbour and its islands. Looking north, down Belknap street, the eye passes over part of West Boston, Charles River; and the hills of Charlestown, appearing to great advantage, and rests on the rocky hills of Malden beyond. Looking west, the placid bay of Charles River, appears at the foot of Mount Vernon like a calm lake, fringed with the graceful outline of the hills of Brookline and Brighton. Looking south, the sight passes over the common, the southerly part of the town, the bay beyond, the country houses and orchards of Roxbury and Dorchester, and reposes on the fine masses of the Blue Hills. If a large area had been left here originally, this spot would have possessed matchless advantages for the erection of any monument of art.

The spot pointed out in the report, is perhaps on the whole, the best that can be selected. The time may perhaps come, when the comfort and happiness of the whole town will not be sacrificed to a few cowkeepers, and when

this beautiful enclosure will be converted, which might be done for a very trifling expense, into a Park worthy of the town. Nature has done every thing for it ; a few plantations of trees, a few gravel walks, the clearing out the pond, and filling it with pure water from the aqueduct or the springs on Mount Vernon, will give us publick grounds and walks such as no other town, in the United States at least, can boast of. The eminence mentioned, would be an excellent scite for the column, the stone might be landed very near it, for it should be built of the fine Chelmsford granite. The extensive and ornamented area that would be always open, terminated to the west by the bay and hills beyond, give decisive advantage to the situation, while even its very base would always be visible from more than one third of a circle, whose diameter is twelve or fifteen miles.

If a column should be decided on, without any impracticable effort, we might erect the largest and finest in the world ; and it is something to say, that in any particular object we possess the finest of its kind. In equestrian statues, there are perhaps a hundred to rival us, and we could hardly hope to reach the average of excellence in this way. An equestrian statue, certainly does not produce on common observers an effect in proportion to its cost.—These observations, hastily written, have been extended much beyond the original intention of the writer ; but the subject is interesting, and the publick attention towards it seems at length to be strongly excited.

## REPORT.

The committee of both Houses, who had under consideration the subject of erecting a Statue to the memory of General George Washington, ask leave to **REPORT**—

That they have bestowed all that attention to the object of their appointment, which their limited time and means would afford ; and although it appears to your committee, that an offering of gratitude of the present age to futurity, in erecting a Statue or Architectural Monument to commemorate the great Washington, would have been more peculiarly the province of the national government, yet, for reasons which are not well understood, or are here unnecessary to repeat, no effectual measures have hitherto been taken by them, to effect this, so desirable an object.

In one or two of the states, it is believed, this subject has been attended to, and some emblem provided to perpetuate the fame of this great man: and in a recent instance the Legislature of one of the southern Atlantick states, by their resolution and approbation of a sum of money for the purpose, have borne honourable testimony to the recollection of his virtues.

*The committee further report,* That the plan of erecting a Monument to Washington, may be divided into two parts; either a Statue to be placed in some publick building, or an Architectural Monument to be erected in some publick place.

A Statue with suitable pedestal and accompaniments, might be estimated to cost from ten to fifteen thousand dollars, if it be attempted to execute it in a manner worthy the object.

The placing such a Statue is attended with some difficulty; the severity of the winters in our climate, would be likely to injure a Statue, if constantly exposed to the weather without a covering.

In Europe, the monumental statues erected to illustrious men, are deposited in churches or palaces, whose solid walls and durable construction make them endure for ages.

A marble statue designed for perpetuity, would be absurdly placed on a wooden floor, which might crumble under it in less than a century: this difficulty might be partially remedied, if such a statue should be placed in the centre of the State-House floor, by erecting under it a solid mass of stone work, on which it might stand independent of the floor.

Such a Statue, if simple in its details, might be rendered still more serviceable to the state, by taking plaster copies of the same, which might be done at a very trifling expense, and one of them given to each county, to be put up in the Court-House, or some other publick building of the county.

Your committee say nothing of an Equestrian Statue; those being attended with very great expense, can only be placed to advantage in some magnificent publick square, and in the present state of the arts in our country, would perhaps be impossible to have executed with sufficient perfection to have rendered it valuable.

Should, however, such a Statue be resolved upon, the centre of the common, or the centre of the ground in front of the State-House, may be considered the most eligible scites.

With respect to an Architectural Monument, the principal form are, a Triumphal Arch, a column or an obelisk, with allegorical figures in *basso relievo* about their bases.

A Triumphal Arch should have a long avenue to its approach, and perhaps the only spot where such an object could be advantageously placed, as things now are, would be in this capital, at the entrance of Washington-street.

An obelisk or a column, would be the kind of Monument which could now be erected with the greatest ease ; different situations might be selected for this purpose, but one however will be designated in this Report, and that is the mound to the westward of the ancient elm tree in the common. The gentle and sufficient elevation of the ground, the capability of the surrounding enclosure being highly improved, the almost unexampled beauty of the western landscape, the wide area which must always remain open, and its being in sight of the State-House, are some of the reasons that may be adduced for erecting a triumphal column or obelisk in this situation.

But your Committee find, that on the 18th day of January, A. D. 1800, this Legislature passed a Resolution which has never been rescinded, in the following words—" Resolved, that a Statue or Monument of Marble be erected on the centre of the lower hall in the new State House, in memory of General George Washington, with inscriptions and devices adapted to impress a due sense of his sublime virtues, to extend and perpetuate their influence, and to express the publick gratitude for his eminent services."

Therefore, your Committee beg leave to report the following Resolutions, which are respectfully submitted.

MARK LANGDON HILL, *Chairman.*

The substance of these resolutions has been already given.